

Preface to Volume 12

In this twelfth volume of *The History of Neuroscience in Autobiography*, we are pleased to present 14 personal narratives by leaders in our field of science.

Larry Squire founded this autobiographical series 28 years ago during his tenure as president of the Society for Neuroscience. From the beginning, the Society leadership understood the importance of documenting the explosive modern growth of a field that brings innovation to medical practice and resonates with a public eager to understand the workings of the brain. Larry's key insight was that the historical record need not simply reflect the timeline of discoveries; there is also value in recording the "activity and thought in which all scientists share," for science itself "is essentially a human endeavor, full of intensity, purpose, and drama that are universal to human experience."

Collectively, the chapters contained in this series do exactly that: They provide a firsthand chronicle of a bold venture in biomedical research, as it has played out in the late 20th and early 21st centuries. Individually, they are treasures, for they are cast in the irresistible and uniquely human form of expression: the story. As such, they not only connect the dots along paths of scientific discovery but also convey the human elements behind those connections, the rich drama and comedy of interpersonal relationships, the sudden flashes of insight, the folly of hubris and the pain of missed opportunities, the beauty of new ideas, and the raw excitement of discovery. These stories are populated by imposing and quirky characters, magnified by the lenses of memory and attention. There are tales of brilliance, fantasy, risk, sacrifice, triumph, and camaraderie, but the theme that binds every one of the chapters in this series is success. Thus, not only do these chapters entertain in the way that only good stories can, but they also offer appealing models and nuanced lessons for success in the human side of science for the next generation of vanguards in our field.

Tom Albright joined Larry as coeditor beginning with Volume 9. With the publication of Volume 12, the library of chapters now numbers 169. Many more great stories are in the making, of course, as the field of neuroscience bounds ahead, and we look forward to curating them in these pages.

Beginning with Volume 8 in the series, the Society for Neuroscience assumed full responsibility for this project. Volume 12 was prepared with the advice of the Society's Publications Committee, which serves as editorial

board for the project. With input from this committee, from the Council of the Society for Neuroscience, and many others, names were compiled for Volume 12. Production was overseen by Kelly Newton, who serves as the Society's director of scientific publications.

Autobiographical chapters contained in Volume 12 are freely available from the SfN website, along with the 155 chapters that appeared in the first eleven volumes of the series. From the SfN homepage, chapters can be accessed either via the "Publications/History of Neuroscience Autobiographical Chapters" menu tabs or via the "About/History of Neuroscience" menu tabs. They can also be accessed directly at <https://www.sfn.org/about/history-of-neuroscience/autobiographical-chapters>. Hardbound copies of Volume 12 are available for purchase via inquiry to jn@sfn.org.

We hope readers will find Volume 12 as interesting and useful as the earlier volumes.

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Del Mar, California
April 2022